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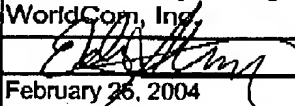
TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/778,021	
	Filing Date	February 17, 2004	
	First Named Inventor	Watkins et al.	
	Art Unit	Unassigned	
	Examiner Name	Unassigned	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	4	Attorney Docket Number	RIC99071C1

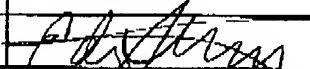
ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
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Signature	
Date	February 26, 2004

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Watkins et al.

Confirmation No.: Unassigned

Serial No.: 10/778,021

Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: February 17, 2004

Examiner: Unassigned

Title: System and Method for Staggering Time Points for
Deployment of Rings in a Fiber Optic Network Simulation Plan**RECEIVED
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**OFFICIAL**Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly and independently considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted within three months of the filing date of the application and prior to issuance of a first Office Action on the merits, therefore, no fee is due.

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), no copy of any patent, publication, pending U.S. application or other information listed in this information disclosure statement is required to be provided, as the information was previously submitted to, or cited by, the Office in earlier Application No. 09/469,527, filed December 22, 1999. Further, according to the Official Gazette, Vol. 1273, Number 1, August 5, 2003, the Office hereby waives the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003.

Each of the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 is in the English language.

It is respectfully requested that the documents cited in this Information Disclosure Statement be independently considered by the Examiner.

FROM WorldCom Technology Law Washington DC

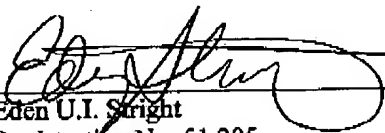
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Docket No.: RIC99071C1

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 13-2491 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 26, 2004


Eden U.I. Stright
Registration No. 51,205

WorldCom, Inc.
1133 19th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202 736-6008
Fax: 202-736-6382

